# Mail to Uncle Sam's Boys on Foreign Soil

## The Postal Path To Our Boys At the Front To Be Kept Clear By Uncle Sam – France Helps Nobly – Reading Matter for Our Fighters – Transferring Money.



MOTHERS, WIVES and sweethearts may have no fear of not reaching their boys in France by mail if they will follow the few plain instructions that have been given out by the Post Office Department relating to the forwarding of letters, papers and packages," said an official of that service recently.

The Government has seen to it that her fighting men are to have a postal service which has never been equaled in behalf of troops sent abroad. Every provision possible has been made for the cheapest and easiest and most rapid transmission of mail matter that could be devised in the office of the Postmaster General of the United States.

France, in her enthusiasm over the coming of the men of the U. S. A. to help her win the war, has also done her generous part in smoothing the way for Uncle Sam's boys to receive and send their mail by remitting all duty charges and admitting mail to enter and leave her territory free of charge.

**How Mail Should Be Addressed.**

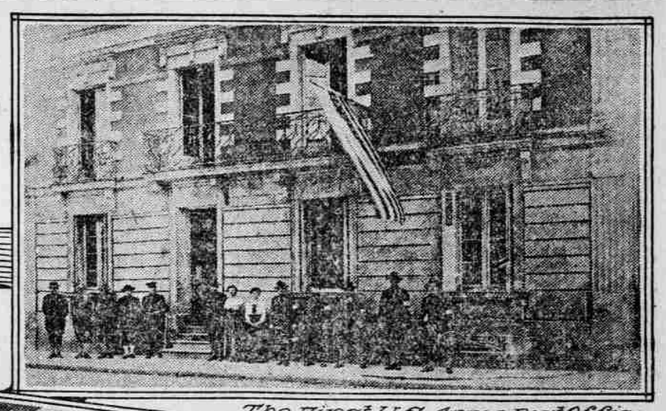
If the home-folks on this side of the Atlantic wish to send letters or papers or magazines or packages to the son or brother or friend with the troops in France, all they have to do is to address the same with his name, his company, regiment and division and add "American Expeditionary forces" and place upon it postage at the domestic rate and the message will be delivered as promptly as it is possible for a thoroughly equipped mail system to handle it.

Another little detail for the home-folks to remember is that their packages for overseas delivery must not exceed twenty pounds in weight.

It should never be forgotten by relatives that letters from home mean more to the soldiers and the sailors who have left their all to do their part in fighting the foreign foe in a foreign land than any other thing which comes to them in the way of respite from the day's work in camp and trench. Letters, therefore, should be frequent, full and cheery.

In the case of Sam at the front the postal path is made yet easier than for his kin at home. If a stamp is not available to him, or if his pocket-book be as empty as that of the proverbial warrior and he has not the wherewithal for the traditional "head," he has but to address his letter with the familiar home address and in the place where the stamp ought to go write "C. O. D.," and the obliging United States Post Office Department will answer for its safe delivery upon the receipt of the missing 2-cent "Postage due" at the house door.

Robert L. Maddox, Supt. of Foreign Mail Service Who Established Postal Service For our Troops Abroad



The First U.S. Army Post Office in France

Guarding the Mail Sacks

Writing Home

American Red Cross Receiving the Last Letters of the Soldiers En Route for the Front. Mrs George W. Vanderbilt is the Acting Red Cross Postman

**Fine Work Of Red Cross.**

Right here a word of appreciation may be said for the efforts of the American Red Cross to increase the mailing facilities of the country's soldiers. At home as well as abroad its representatives are in attendance on departing troop trains and transports to carry back the last missives penciled by the men about to leave. The service gives the touch of personal interest and counts for much to the lads off for duty in foreign lands.

A seeker after information on matters concerning the soldiers' mail in France called at the office of the Second Assistant Postmaster General, and was pleasantly received by Mr. Otto Praeger, who fills this position.

"I can assure you that we are happy to be able to say that all the men and all the postal equipment for the United States postal service in France arrived there safely and intact, and that the service is now running with satisfactory smoothness. We have men there and equipment for a much larger service than is needed at present. The reason for this is due to our having sent over three complete installments of both men and material with three transports arriving at different ports.

"Why? Cannot you guess? We had to feel certain of one set at least being safely landed and took no chances, as the mail service must of necessity be established. In spite of anxiety all three assignments reached their destination.

**Plenty Of Men And Equipment.**

"The United States Postal Service in France is well established, "repeated Mr. Praeger. "We began arranging for it immediately on the outbreak of war. As early as last June a number of officials went abroad and studied the situation. They made a complete survey of the Army Postal Service in London and of the British Field Service at the front. As the result of their investigations we were able to establish a most satisfactory system."

John Clark, formerly Superintendent of the 5th Division of the Railroad Mail Service, will be at the head of the service and the Postmaster General has given him the title of United States Postal Agent in Europe. A base post office has been established at one of the chief ports of France and routes will be opened up as the exigencies of war demand them.

**Mr. Clark's Three Assistants.**

Associated with Mr. Clark in responsible capacities are three assistants. The first of these is Major Clinton L. Wright, who is superintendent of finance.

The second assistant is Mr. John H. Collier, former assistant postmaster of the City of Washington, who will fill the important post of superintendent of the money order division.

The third assistant is Mr. John Lieck, formerly chief clerk of the railway and mail service at Houston, Texas, who was in charge of military mail when General Pershing was in Texas. This preliminary experience has fitted Mr. Lieck admirably for his office of superintendent of mail transportation.

Mr. Collier will figure largely in the transactions of the boys in khaki since it is likely that a goodly part of their monthly pay rolls will be sent back home, either for the use of dependents or for banking on their own account. American soldiers in France will receive their pay not in the coin of their own realm but in that of France. If they prefer it they will have checks.

The men in the trenches will have their mail delivered to them and dispatched for them by means of a service on wheels known as "mobile post offices." These wagons will follow the armies as closely as is expedient and doubtless they will prove many times an acceptable bond of union with home for the khaki-clad boys of France. General Pershing has issued an order requiring all postal employes with the armies in France to wear a uniform. This is to be an olive drab service uniform with the letters "U. S." on either side of the collar. A white brassard worn on the left arm will bear the letters "P. S."

**Reading Matter For Our Fighters.**

It is a well-worn fact that men in the foreign field never seem to have the opportunity to become "fed up" on reading matter—in other words the supply never meets the demand. A recent order of the Postmaster General should do its part in remedying this condition.

This order specifies that unwrapped and unaddressed copies of magazines may be sent by other than publishers to the expeditionary forces in Europe for one cent a copy regardless of weight. Magazines for mailing under this order must have printed in the upper right hand corner of the front cover the following:

**Notice to Reader**

**When you finish reading this magazine place a 1-cent stamp on this notice, hand same to any postal employe and it will be placed in the hands of our soldiers or sailors at the front.**

**No wrapping—No address.**

**A. S. Burleson,**
**Postmaster General.**

Adjutant General Henry P. McCain, U. S. A., who is making every effort for the welfare of the soldiers in Europe, is inaugurating a special division of statistics in his office in the War Department relating to the health and casualties of the men abroad. This is being done largely for the benefit of friends of soldiers who wish to know of their condition while abroad. The General, however, advises dependence largely on individual correspondence.

"No system we can devise or operate, unless we used direct cable from France will get information to friends and relatives of soldiers in France as quickly as a soldier can himself dispatch it by ordinary mail," he says. "The plan we are working out is an extension of the statistical work of the office. We shall include in the plan the designation of individuals in hospitals to write post cards and letters for soldiers who cannot do so themselves. This will enable every soldier to get word to friends and relatives 'back home' as quickly as possible without cabling."

**Lessons From Spanish-American War.**

Necessity is the mother of invention and bitter experience is the mother of all this care for the fighting forces on foreign soil. It is recalled with no little sorrow that at the time of the Spanish-American War inadequate mail facilities caused undue hardship to the men at the front as well as anxiety to the families at home and in many cases was the cause of unnecessary privation on the part of postal officials and clerks with the troops on the fighting fronts and at the home camps who endeavored to do their duty under conditions which to say the least were painful.

The field post offices established at the various military camps in Spanish-American War times were rough, temporary buildings thrown up at slight cost, and with so scant a force of mail clerks that assistance had to be sought from the Army, a number of chaplains generally being detailed for the work. Needless to say no jaunty uniforms proclaimed to the world that Uncle Sam's mail men with the fighting forces were strictly on their job as these same insignia are telling in France today.

**Mail Service In The Navy.**

The United States Postal Service in the Navy is an old-established institution and fully efficient for all needs and will only require some extension and readjustment to meet the conditions of full war strength. Every warship of the fleet has its fully equipped post office with its corps of mail clerks, who at time of arriving at and leaving port have their hands quite as full as they desire with the handling of their mail bags of spasmodic expansion and contraction.

Incoming mail is sorted by divisions, the petty officer in charge of each division reporting at the post office after announcement has been made that mail is ready for delivery. Each petty officer is, in turn, responsible for the delivery of mail to his men.

"It really is very interesting to see the excitement the arrival of a mail boat creates," said an officer of the fleet recently. "There is hardly a man who isn't hanging over the rail or holding on to a fellow who got there first."

When the vessel is ready to go out there is the same feverish scramble for pens, ink and paper for sending final word notes as attends the leaving of the last boat from the side of any of the great ocean liners of peace times. Mail boxes have their place on board the big battleships, too, for the use of Jack Tar exactly as he has them at home, and letters are collected by the mail clerk's assistant with the familiar mail pouch suspended from his shoulder.

**Work Of Navy Mail Clerks.**

On board ship there are two men nominated by the commanding officer and appointed by the Post Office Department as Navy mail clerks. These men are required to further bond to the Department, and in addition to their regular pay the chief clerk receives $30 a month, while his assistant gets $15.

In addition to the regular mail they also handle a money order business. It was said recently by one in the service that since the fleet had been away from shore duty, at a certain point on one pay day which followed the declaration of war with Germany $12,000 in money orders was sent out from one of the ships to relatives or as bank deposits.

This goes to disprove the fallacy that Jack Tar is a notorious spendthrift. Many of the sailors of the United States Navy have substantial accounts, which have found their way to the banks throughout the homeland by means of Uncle Sam's splendid mail service.

# Remarkable Work of the Royal Northwest Mounted Police

## The Great Work Done By This Unique Body of Men Who Have Brought Law and Order Out of Chaos In the Canadian Northwest.



FOR MANY YEARS this corps of men—one that is unique in the military history of the world—has been safe guarding the lives of the settlers of northwestern Canada. At the time of its organization, in 1873, much of that section of the country was still a trackless waste and virgin forest inhabited only by savage Indians, missionary priests, fur traders and wild beasts. Whiskey drinking and brawling among the Indians led to offenses—unpardonable offenses. Incited by illicit traders, the Indians took to horse stealing on a wide scale, and the small white population became terror stricken and appealed to the Canadian Government to come to their aid as their lives and property were in continual jeopardy. Murder ran riot among the Indians themselves who suffered no punishment for their crimes. Colonel Robertson Ross was sent out to investigate matters and his report was found to show great need of a constabulary for policing that section of the country. Sir John McDonald became interested in the matter and early the following year, 1873, the Dominion Parliament began to discuss the establishment of a northwestern police system seriously. The corps was organized in autumn of that year and was modeled after the Royal Irish Constabulary. At that time the force consisted of only one hundred men, but in its organization the first blow had been struck in the far northwest against the elements of lawlessness and disorder and momentous results have followed therefrom. At first there was trouble with the Indians, who refused to give up their "fire water," and in fights several of the mounted police lost their lives. The Indians, however, soon learned that the Mounted Police meant business, and that if one was killed his murderer was captured and hanged so they began to have a wholesome respect for the red coated men who patroled the forests and plains.

In 1877, the entire force of police was concentrated on the frontier to check the Sioux Indians (then known as the tigers of the plains), who sought refuge in Canada after the Custer massacre, and it was through the efforts of the Canadian police that these Indians were finally induced to surrender to the United States authorities.

Inspector Knight, a Typical Officer at the Headquarters

Inspecting Baggage

Ready For Duty

Gun Drill at Regina

Squad Drilling at Regina

**Construction Camps And Bad Characters.**

The construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway brought new work for the Mounted Police as the railroad camps were frequently scenes of disorder. The utmost vigilance was needed to prevent the wholesale supply of liquor to the workmen who found themselves with money in their pockets and very few ways to use it. Then too there were hosts of undesirables who always frequent these camps ready to prey upon the workmen—gamblers, thieves and other scum of humanity flocked to the scene. Strikes were numerous and even the Indians at times tried to interfere with this new invasion of their territory. But the Mounted Police kept law and order in the camps and during the entire construction there was not a single serious crime.

**The Riel Rebellion.**

Perhaps the most serious affair with which the Northwest Police have had to contend is what is known as the Riel Rebellion, when Louis Riel, a half breed, incited the half breeds into forming a provisional government of their own. Under the influence of this man the Indians had been led to think that they were unfairly treated by the laws and they sent in an absurd bill about their rights. The government treated the "bill" with the contempt that it merited. Riel hoped to found an exclusively French province in the northwest, and rule over it himself, and to this end he gathered the half breeds about him and soon a large number were armed. Some of the Indians promised to join them when the fray began. The secret agents kept the Mounted Police informed as to the movements of the rebels and when the storm broke the police were well distributed over the affected area.

There were several skirmishes—the one at Duck Lake being the most serious, for had the Rebels been able to carry out their plans the whole force of Mounted Police at that point might have been annihilated. The massacre at Frog Lake was perhaps the worst act of the rebellion. Many people were killed and the town was ransacked by the Indians and half breeds. The survivors flocked to Fort Pitt and how they lived for days in a stockade protected by only a handful of men forms one of the most heroic annals in the history of the Mounted Police. Big Bear, the Indian chief, made several efforts to have them surrender but failed. He, however, finally pursuaded the people to come to his camp, where he promised that no harm should come to them. The police being thus deserted the Indians opened fire and one policeman was killed, the others barely escaping with their lives, not so much on account of the Indians as of the ice in the river through which they were compelled to travel. The disorder continued for several months and gave the Canadian Government no little concern. Finally both Riel and Big Bear were captured, together with seven other Indians, who were ringleaders in the affair. All were executed and the famous Northwest rebellion came to an end.

No sooner had the rebellion been put down than troubles with illicit whiskey men broke out again, and under the influence of bad liquor the Indians again took to horse and cattle stealing. These difficulties continued and led to the killing of a bad Indian named "Almighty Voice." This Indian stole a cow and killed it, and when an attempt was made to arrest him he resisted and raised a small sized rebellion. Finally the Police had to bring a nine pounder field gun into play, and there was a skirmish in which a number of Indians were killed and several members of the Mounted Police badly wounded; "Almighty Voice" was finally shot. He, however, died game as he was in the act of raising his gun to shoot at his pursuers when a bullet ended his life.

**In The Yukon Country.**

The part the Mounted Police played during the gold rush to Alaska in the nineties of the last century is a remarkable example of the power of these men to bring law and order out of chaotic conditions. When the gold rush began, in 1894, it was deemed advisable to send a detachment of Mounted Police to the new El Dorado. When they arrived there the mercury was 77 below zero, and there was only four hours of daylight. To make matters worse candles were selling at one dollar each. The police, however, finally completed log barracks and set about to weed out the undesirables who always flock to mining camps. There were two routes to the gold fields—one through Dyea over the famous Chilkoot Pass to White Horse and the other through Skaguay over the White Pass. Both were equally difficult and many gold seekers lost their lives. Others were robbed and suffered undescribable hardships. Both Dyea and Skaguay became lawless towns where murderers, thieves and gamblers held sway for a time. Many of these camp followers tried to enter the Yukon country, but were prevented by the Mounted Police, who turned them back at the frontier.

To protect the honest prospectors from thieves and adventurers, who came in with the throng and to bring law and order out of a motly crowd of forty or fifty thousand people was no easy task, but the scarlet uniform soon became a symbol of good behavior. At Dawson City splendid log barracks together with a jail and penitentiary were erected. Other posts were established and today there are fifty-three Mounted Police stations in the Yukon territory, with three men at each post and seventy-five men at Dawson and as many more at White Horse. A weekly patrol is maintained between the stations and people going or coming over the winter trail are required to register at each station and state their destination. This makes it practically impossible for persons to be lost on the trail any length of time, for if after registering at one post and starting for another, they do not arrive promptly there whereabouts will be speedily ascertained. Small boats going up or down the river are numbered and the occupants must register at the Police Station before starting. Their names and descriptions are sent to the various stations along the river, and should an occupant be missing when the boat reaches any one of these stations a satisfactory explanation must be given before the boat may proceed.

There is an export tax of ten and one-half per cent. on all gold taken from the territory and the Mounted Police do the inspecting and search baggage for gold.

The Mounted Police are a civil body in the eyes of the law and the officers are magistrates and the men constables, and they are practically both the military and civil guardians of the Yukon territory. Their boat "Vidette," patrols the Yukon River, and does excellent service in the early spring in assisting in opening the channel.

**Jack Of All Trades.**

All sorts of duties are required of the police in the great northwest, for in many places they act as forest rangers and assist in fighting the great forest fires; they carry mail to outlying camps, act as timber agents, health officers and court bailiffs—in short the Mounted Police are a sort of "Jack of all trades."

The headquarters of the force is at Regina, where all recruits are drilled. Men who enlist must be between the ages of twenty-two and forty years of age, and at least five feet eight inches in height, of good character, able to read and write and of sound constitution. He must also be able to ride, although he is not necessarily mounted when on duty.

The training requires about twelve months, as the man must be drilled, set up, taught to ride cavalry fashion, to shoot with a carbine and revolver, acquire a knowledge of his duties and powers as a police officer, understand how to take care of a horse and become an efficient prairie man which requires a smattering of the art of cooking. He must also attend a course of lectures, learning the different laws of the Dominion.

**Only Protection Of Northwest.**

Today the Mounted Police are the only protection of Northwestern Canada as that section has sent hundreds of men to aid the mother country in her hour of need. The northwest is being rapidly settled and already the Province of Alberta has her own constabulary, thus relieving the Mounted Police of covering many miles. Perhaps the time may come when the Mounted Police will no longer be a necessity, but in future years when one looks over the comfortable homes and fields of waving grain which cover the thousands of acres—once prairie, the work of this splendid body of men under the greatest difficulties and in the midst of danger will be remembered as having laid the foundation for an orderly government.